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Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 161632Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1363
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM UK NATO XB SREF
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: INDOCHINA REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 296511, (B) USNATO 12642

SUMMARY: BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO RAISE CAMBODIAN "ATROCITIES" IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS COM-MISSION; (B) INCREASE THE UK CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNHCR AND HIS ACTIVITIES IN SE ASIA; ADMIT TO THE UK ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH A "PREVIOUS CONNECTION" TO THE
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UK. END SUMMARY.

1. RESPONDING TO DEBATE IN HOUSE OF LORDS DEC 12, LORD GORONWY-ROBERTS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE FCO, ANNOUNCED NEW STEPS THE BRITISH ARE TAKING WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEE PROBLEMS IN INDOCHINA.

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2. CAMBODIA. WHILE BRITISH CONCERN ABOUT CAMBODIAN ATROCITIES HAS BEEN MADE KNOWN PREVIOUSLY (IN UN THIRD COMMITTEE AND BY WITHHOLDING APPOINTMENT OF UK AMBASSADOR), HMG NOW PROPOSES TO TAKE "A FURTHER ACTION IN CONDEMNATION AND EXPOSURE OF THESE PRACTICES" AT THE NEXT MEETING OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1978. GOROWNY-ROBERTS HOPED THAT THE UK'S FRIENDS AND ALLIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE EC 9, WOULD SUPPORT THE UK ACTION. (COMMENT: FCO SOURCES SAY THEY HAVE NOT YET FLESHED OUT THEIR TACTICAL APPROACH TO HRC MEETING.)

3. UK SUPPORT FOR UNHCR. GOROWNY-ROBERTS SUPPORTED THAI GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO COPE WITH REFUGEE FLOW AND PRAISED THE "GREAT WORK" OF UNHCR. HE WENT ON TO ANNOUNCE THAT REGULAR BRITISH CONTRIBUTION OF 350,000 POUNDS TO UNHCR BUDGET FOR CY 1977 WOULD BE INCREASED BY A ONE-TIME ADDITION OF ANOTHER 350,000 POUNDS THIS YEAR, AND THAT REGULAR UK CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE INCREASED TO 400,000 POUNDS IN 1978. MOREOVER, SPECIAL JUNE 1977 CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR RESETTLEMENT IN THAILAND, 250,000 POUNDS, WOULD BE INCREASED TO TOTAL OF 750,000 POUNDS, SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL.

4. REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN UK. GOROWNY-ROBERTS STATED RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES REMAINED A PRESSING INTERNA-
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TIONAL PROBLEM, AND THAT HMG WAS CONSIDERING WHAT MORE IT COULD DO TO ASSIST. IN MEANTIME, HE SAID, HOME OFFICE HAS AGREED TO ADMIT THOSE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH PREVIOUS UK CONNECTIONS, AND TO ALLOW THOSE ALREADY IN THE UK TO REMAIN IF THEY DO NOT WISH TO RETURN TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN. UK QUOTA OF 116 FOR OTHER VIETNAMESE REFUGEES HAS BEEN FILLED BY "BOAT CASES" AND HMG IS CONSIDERING WHAT FURTHER MEASURES MAY BE TAKEN IN THIS AREA.

5. COMMENT: FCO SOURCE RECOGNIZES THAT UK EFFORTS ARE NOT LARGE COMPARED TO WHAT THE U.S. AND SOME OTHERS ARE DOING VIS-A-VIS INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. HOWEVER, UK OFFICIALS SAY THEY MUST KEEP IN MIND THE UK'S TRADITIONAL ROLE IN OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD AND THE FACT THEIR HISTORICAL CONNECTION WITH INDOCHINA IS NOT AS DIRECT AS SOME. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THERE ARE NOT A LARGE NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO WILL QUALIFY UNDER THE PROVISIONS FOR THOSE WITH A UK CONNECTION. AS FOR THE "BOAT PEOPLE", THE FCO RECOGNIZES THAT THE PRESENT QUOTA IS SMALL AND STATES THE HOME OFFICE IS CONSIDERING SYMPATHETICALLY "SOME" INCREASE IN THIS CATEGORY.

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6. OUR FCO SOURCE WAS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE NOT MENTIONED BY BRITISH SIDE DURING ASST SECRETARY DERIAN'S DISCUSSION WITH THE FCO LAST WEEK (LONDON 20203) AND HAD NO PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR THIS FAILURE. BREWSTER
UNQUOTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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